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United States Patent [19]

Nainan et al.

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[54] **DNA SEQUENCE ENCODING A CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY HEPATITIS A VIRUS CAPSID PROTEIN**

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[73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Department of Health and Human Services,** Washington, D.C.

[21] Appl. No.: **87,016**

[22] Filed: **Jul. 6, 1993**

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 678,828, Apr. 3, 1991, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **C07H 17/00;** C12P 21/02; C12P 19/34; C12N 15/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **536/23.72;** 435/69.1; 435/172.3; 435/235.1; 435/240.2; 530/350; 935/9; 935/32; 935/34; 935/57; 935/63; 935/70

[58] **Field of Search** 435/235.1, 69.1, 91, 435/172.3; 424/240.2, 89; 536/27.1, 23.72; 530/350; 935/9, 32, 34, 57, 63, 70

[56] **References Cited**

PUBLICATIONS

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates, in general, to substantially pure preparations of the cynomolgus monkey hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55; cDNAs of the genomic RNAs of cynomolgus monkey hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55; a method of preventing hepatitis A in an animal; and vaccines comprising the cynomolgus monkey hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55.

3 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets

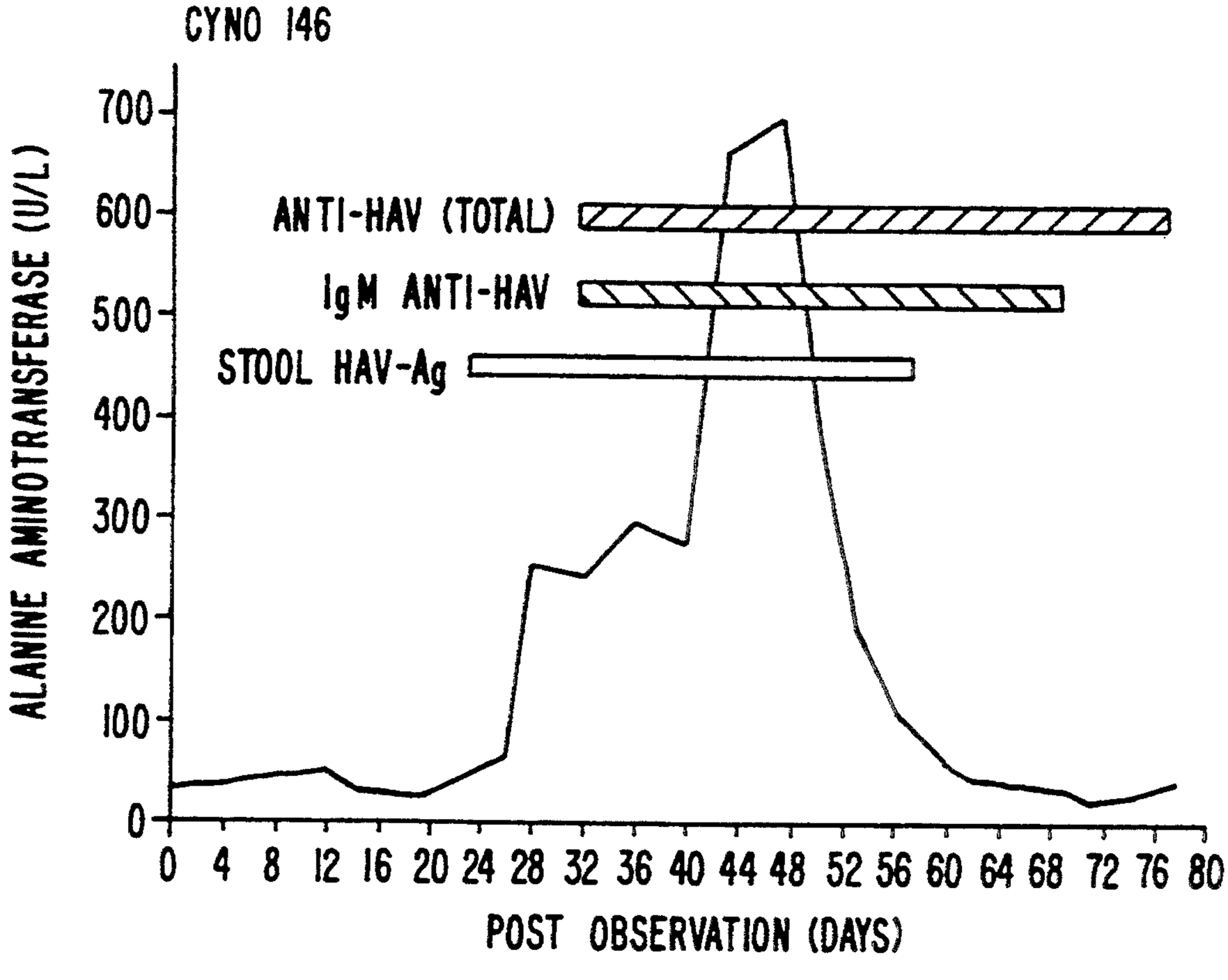
CYNO 146
ALANINE AMINOTRANSFERASE (U/L)
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
ANTI-HAV (TOTAL)
IgM ANTI-HAV
STOOL HAV-Ag
0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 44 48 52 56 60 64 68 72 76 80
POST OBSERVATION (DAYS)

FIG. 1.

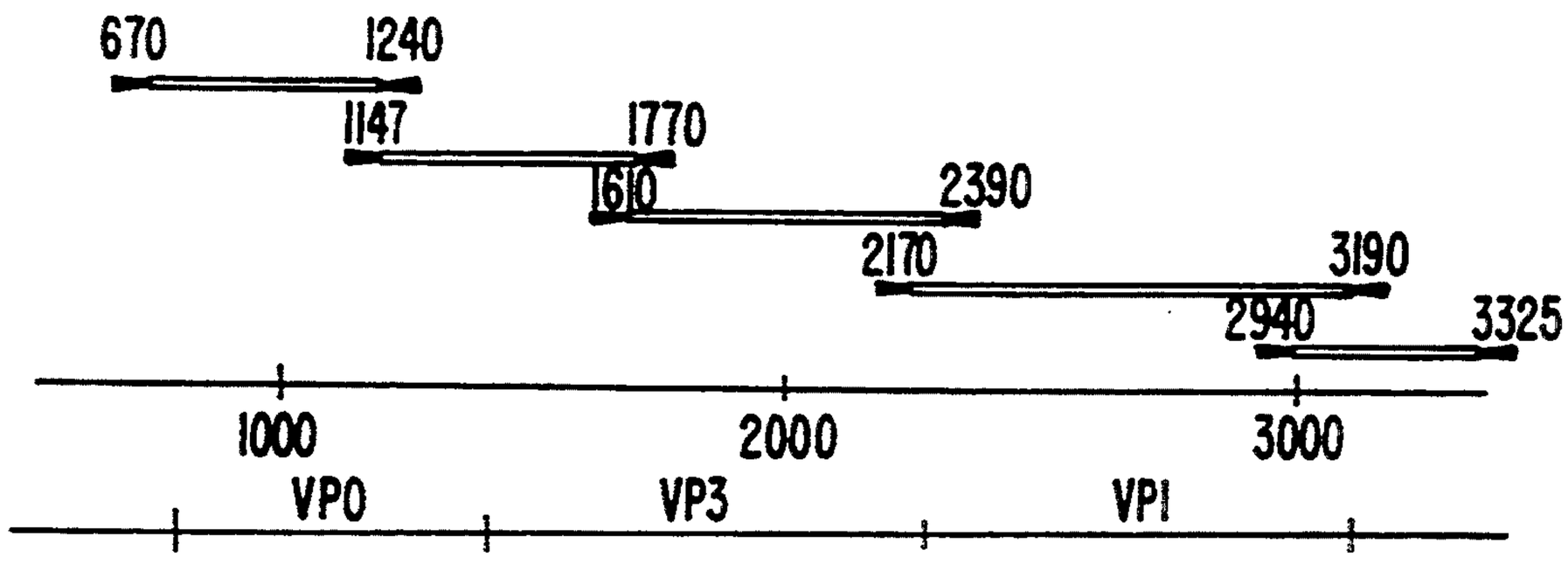
670
1240
1147
1770
610
2390
2170
3190
2940
3325
1000
2000
3000
VP0
VP3
VP1

FIG. 2.

```
                  ──────►VPO
1       ATGATGAATATGGCTAGACAAGGATTGTTTCAGACTGTTGGTAGTGGCCTTGACCACATT
           M   N   M   A   R   Q   G   L   F   Q   T   V   G   S   G   L   D   H   I

61      CTTTCTTTGGCTGACGTCGAGGAAGAGCAAATGATTCAATCTGTTGATAGAACAGCTGTG
        L   S   L   A   D   V   E   E   E   Q   M   I   Q   S   V   D   R   T   A   V

121     ACTGGAGCTTCATACTTCACTTCTGTAGACCAATCTTCAGTCCATACAGCAGAAGTTGGT
        T   G   A   S   Y   F   T   S   V   D   Q   S   S   V   H   T   A   E   V   G

181     TCTCATCAATCAGAGCCTTTGAAAACCTCAGTTGATAAACCAGGCTCAAAAAAGACACAG
        S   H   Q   S   E   P   L   K   T   S   V   D   K   P   G   S   K   K   T   Q

241     GGTGAGAAATTTTTCCTCATTCATTCAGCTGATTGGTTGTCTACGCATGCTTTATTTCAT
        G   E   K   F   F   L   I   H   S   A   D   W   L   S   T   H   A   L   F   H

301     GAGGTGGCCAAGCTTGATGTGGTTAGTTTGCTTTATAATGAGCAATTTGCAGTCCAAGGA
        E   V   A   K   L   D   V   V   S   L   L   Y   N   E   Q   F   A   V   Q   G

361     TTGTTGAGATATCACACTTATGCTAGGTTTGGAATTGAGATTCAAGTTCAAATAAATCCT
        L   L   R   Y   H   T   Y   A   R   F   G   I   E   I   Q   V   Q   I   N   P

421     ACTCCTTTTCAACAAGGAGGACTAATTTGTGCTATGGTTCCTGGGGATCAAGGCTATGGG
        T   P   F   Q   Q   G   G   L   I   C   A   M   V   P   G   D   Q   G   Y   G
```

FIG. 3-1.

```
                                                    .....AT.A.....C.....T..C.....A
481         TCTATTGCTTCTCTCACTGTTTATCCACATGGTTTGCTGAATTGTAATATCAATAATGTG
            S  I  A  S  L  T  V  Y  P  H  G  L  L  N  C  N  I  N  N  V
                                                    .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

            ..A.........GT.C..T..C.................T.....T.....T..A..T..A..G
541         GTTAGAATCAAAGTTCCATTTATTTATACTAGAGGAGCTTACCATTTCAAGGACCCCCAA
            V  R  I  K  V  P  F  I  Y  T  R  G  A  Y  H  F  K  D  P  Q
            .  .  .  .  F  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

            ..T..A..C.......C.T.....TC.T..G.....T..GC.................T...
601         TACCCTGTTTGGGAATTAACAATCAGAGTATGGTCAGAATTCAATATTGGAACTGGAACT
            Y  P  V  W  E  L  T  I  R  V  W  S  E  F  N  I  G  T  G  T
            .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  L  .  .  .  .  .  .

            .........T..A..T..A.....GC.T............A...T.G............CT.G
661         TCTGCATACACGTCATTGAATGTATTAGCTAGATTTACTGATCTTGAGTTGCATGGTCTC
            S  A  Y  T  S  L  N  V  L  A  R  F  T  D  L  E  L  H  G  L
            .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

            ..............T.....┌.....→VP3............A..T.....A..T..G.....A
721         ACTCCATTGTCTACCCAGATGATGAGAAATGAATTTAGGGTGAGTACCACAGAAAATGTT
            T  P  L  S  T  Q  M  M  R  N  E  F  R  V  S  T  T  E  N  V
            .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .
```

FIG. 3-2.

```
      .....T.G..C.....G..T..T.....................TC..........
781   GTTAATCTTTCTAATTATGAAGACGCAAGAGCAAAAATGTCATTTGCATTGGATCAAGAG
      V  N  L  S  N  Y  E  D  A  R  A  K  M  S  F  A  L  D  Q  E
      .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

      G......A............CC....A..T...G.T..A..C.........A.A..A...
841   AATTGGAGATCTGATCCATCTGAGGGTGGAGGAATCAAGATTACTCATTTCTCTACTTGG
      N  W  R  S  D  P  S  E  G  G  G  I  K  I  T  H  F  S  T  W
      D  .  K  .  .  .  .  Q  .  .  .  V  .  .  .  .  .  T  .  .

      .........T..C.........T.....A.......................T.........A
901   ACCTCAATACCAACTTTGGCAGCTCAGTTTGCTTTTAATGCTTCAGCTTCAGTGGGACAG
      T  S  I  P  T  L  A  A  Q  F  A  F  N  A  S  A  S  V  G  Q
      .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  *  .  .  .  .

      ..A............T............T.........
961   CAGATTAAGGTTATACCTGTTGATCCATATTTTTATCAAATGACAAATTCAAATCCTGAT
      Q  I  K  V  I  P  V  D  P  Y  F  Y  Q  M  T  N  S  N  P  D
      .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

1021  CAGAAATACATTACTGCTTTAGCTTCAATTTGTCAGATGTTTTGTTTTTGGAGAGGAGAT
      Q  K  Y  I  T  A  L  A  S  I  C  Q  M  F  C  F  W  R  G  D
```

FIG. 3-3.

```
1081    TTAGTTTTTGATTTTCAAGTTTTTCCTACAAAGTATCATTCAGGAAGATTGCAATTTTGT
        L  V  F  D  F  Q  V  F  P  T  K  Y  H  S  G  R  L  Q  F  C

1141    TTTGTACCTGGAAATGAGTTAATTGAAGTAACTTCTATAACATTGAAACAGGCTACTACT
        F  V  P  G  N  E  L  I  E  V  T  S  I  T  L  K  Q  A  T  T

1201    GCCCCATGTGCAGTGATGGACATTACAGGAGTACAATCGACACTAAGATTTCGAGTCCCT
        A  P  C  A  V  M  D  I  T  G  V  Q  S  T  L  R  F  R  V  P

1261    TGGATCTCAGATACTCCTTACAGAGTCAATTGTTATATTAAGTCCTCACATCAGAAGGGT
        W  I  S  D  T  P  Y  R  V  N  C  Y  I  K  S  S  H  Q  K  G

1321    GAATATACAGCGATTGAAAAATTGATTGTTTACTGTTACAACAGATTGACTTCTCCTTCT
        E  Y  T  A  I  E  K  L  I  V  Y  C  Y  N  R  L  T  S  P  S

1381    AATGTTGCATCCCATGTCAGAGTTAACGTTTATCTGTCAGCAATCAATTTGGAGTGCTTT
        N  V  A  S  H  V  R  V  N  V  Y  L  S  A  I  N  L  E  C  F
```

FIG. 3-4.

```
                                                              ┌──►VP1
                  .............T.....C..G.G.......T..T.....T...
1441   GCTCCACTATATCATGCTATGGATGTCACATCTCAAACTGGAGATGACTCAGGAGGCTTT
       A  P  L  Y  H  A  M  D  V  T  S  Q  T  G  D  D  S  G  G  F
                   .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

       ..A.....A.....T.....A..G....CT........T..G.....T........AATC.
1501   TCTACTACTGTTTCCACTGAGCAAAATGTGCCTGATCCGCAAGTTGGAATTACAACTCCA
       S  T  T  V  S  T  E  Q  N  V  P  D  P  Q  V  G  I  T  T  P
       .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  A  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  I

       .....T.....A.....A..A....GA.....A..............C..C.....T..A
1561   AAGGACTTGAAGGGGAAGGCTAATAAGGGAAAGATGGATGTTTCTGGTGTTCAAGCCCCT
       K  D  L  K  G  K  A  N  K  G  K  M  D  V  S  G  V  Q  A  P
       .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

       .....T..T..C.....T.....A.........GT.A..C.....AA.......A..A..T
1621   GTTGGAGCAATAACAACAATAGAGGATCCAGTTCTTGCTAAGAAGGTTCCTGAGACCTTC
       V  G  A  I  T  T  I  E  D  P  V  L  A  K  K  V  P  E  T  F
       .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  I  .  .  .  .

       ..A..G.........A.....G.....A.........A.....T......A.T.........
1681   CCTGAATTGAAGCCTGGTGAATCTAGGCATACATCTGATCACATGTCTGTGTACAAATTT
       P  E  L  K  P  G  E  S  R  H  T  S  D  H  M  S  V  Y  K  F
       .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  I  .  .  .
```

FIG. 3-5.

```
     .....C.........C..T.....T.....C..T............C..T..A.........C
1741 ATGGGAAGGTCACATTTCTTGTGCACTTTTACATTTAATGCAAATAACAGGGAATATACT
     M  G  R  S  H  F  L  C  T  F  T  F  N  A  N  N  R  E  Y  T
     .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  *  .  .  .  .  .  .

     ............T..G..T.....A..T........C.....T.TG.....A..T..AC..
1801 TTTCCAATAACCTTATCATCAACTTCAAATCCTCCACATGGATCTCCATCCACATTGAGG
     F  P  I  T  L  S  S  T  S  N  P  P  H  G  S  P  S  T  L  R
     .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  L  .  .  .  .  .

     .....C.....T..G.........G.........A..AC.G............T..T.....A
1861 TGGTTTTTTAACCTATTTCAGCTCTATAGAGGCCCGTTAGATTTGACTATCATCATCACT
     W  F  F  N  L  F  Q  L  Y  R  G  P  L  D  L  T  I  I  I  T
     .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

     .........T............G.....T.........C.....G...C.T..C..T..C..T
1921 GGAGCCACAGATGTTGATGGAATGGCATGGTTCACACCTGTTGGTTTGGCTGTAGATACC
     G  A  T  D  V  D  G  M  A  W  F  T  P  V  G  L  A  V  D  T
     .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

     .........G..A.........A...T.A..T............G..A..A.....G.....T
1981 CCTTGGGTAGAGAAGCAGTCTGCTCTGACAATTGATTATAAAACTGCTTTGGGAGCTATC
     P  W  V  E  K  Q  S  A  L  T  I  D  Y  K  T  A  L  G  A  I
     .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .
```

FIG. 3-6.

```
                .........T..C............C................C.T..G.....T.........
2041            AGATTTAACACGAGAAGAACTGGGAACATTCAAATTAGATTGCCTTGGTACTCATATCTT
                R  F  N  T  R  R  T  G  N  I  Q  I  R  L  P  W  Y  S  Y  L
                .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .  .

                .....T.....T..C..C..A
2101            TATGCAGTGTCAGGTGCTCTGGATGGACTTGGAGATACAACGGACTCAACTTTTGGTCTA
                Y  A  V  S  G  A  L  D  G  L  G  D  T  T  D  S  T  F  G  L
                .  .  .  .  .  .  .

2161            GTTTCTATACAGATTGCAAATTACAATCACTCTGATGAATACTTGTCTTTTAGTTGTTAT
                V  S  I  Q  I  A  N  Y  N  H  S  D  E  Y  L  S  F  S  C  Y

2221            TTGTCTGTTACAGAACAATCTGAATTTTTCTTTCCTAGGGCTCCTTTGAATTCAAGTGCT
                L  S  V  T  E  Q  S  E  F  F  F  P  R  A  P  L  N  S  S  A

2281            ATGATGACTTCTGAAAATATGTTAGACAGAATTGCTGGAGGTGATCTTGAGTCGTCAGTA
                M  M  T  S  E  N  M  L  D  R  I  A  G  G  D  L  E  S  S  V

                                                    ┌──────►P2
2341            GATGACCCCCGTACAGATGAAGATCGTAGATTTGAGAGTCATATTGAGAAGAAACCATAC
                D  D  P  R  T  D  E  D  R  R  F  E  S  H  I  E  K  K  P  Y
```

FIG. 3-7.

```
2401  AAGGAGTTGAGACTTGAGGTTGGTAAGCAGAGATTCAAATATGCAAGAGAAGAATTGTCA
      K  E  L  R  L  E  V  G  K  Q  R  F  K  Y  A  R  E  E  L  S

2461  AATGAGATCTTGCCTCCCCCTAGGAAATTGAAAGGATTGTTTTCACAATCAAAAATTTCC
      N  E  I  L  P  P  P  R  K  L  K  G  L  F  S  Q  S  K  I  S
```

FIG. 3-8.

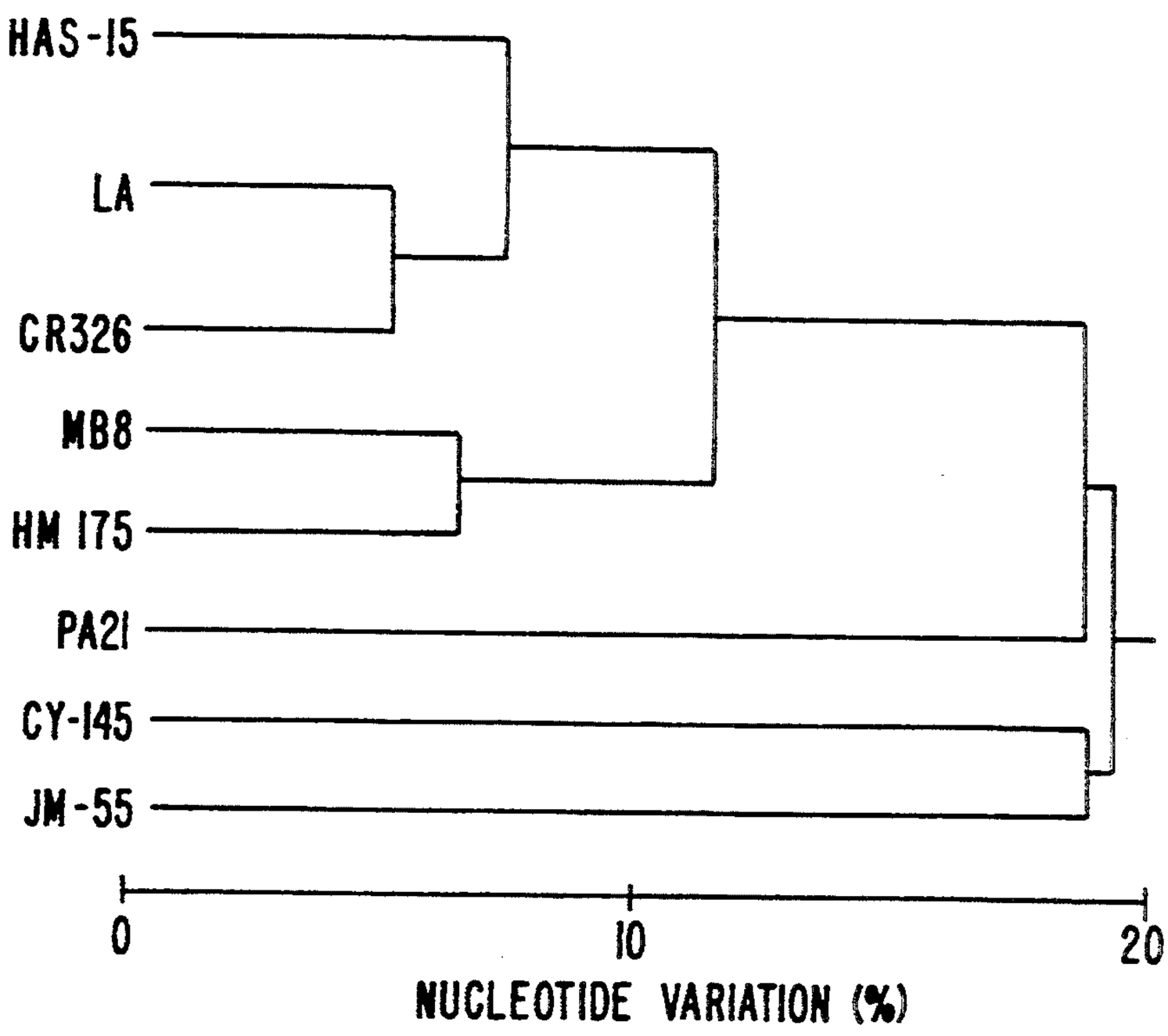
HAS-15
LA
CR326
MB8
HM 175
PA21
CY-145
JM-55
0
10
20
NUCLEOTIDE VARIATION (%)

FIG. 4.

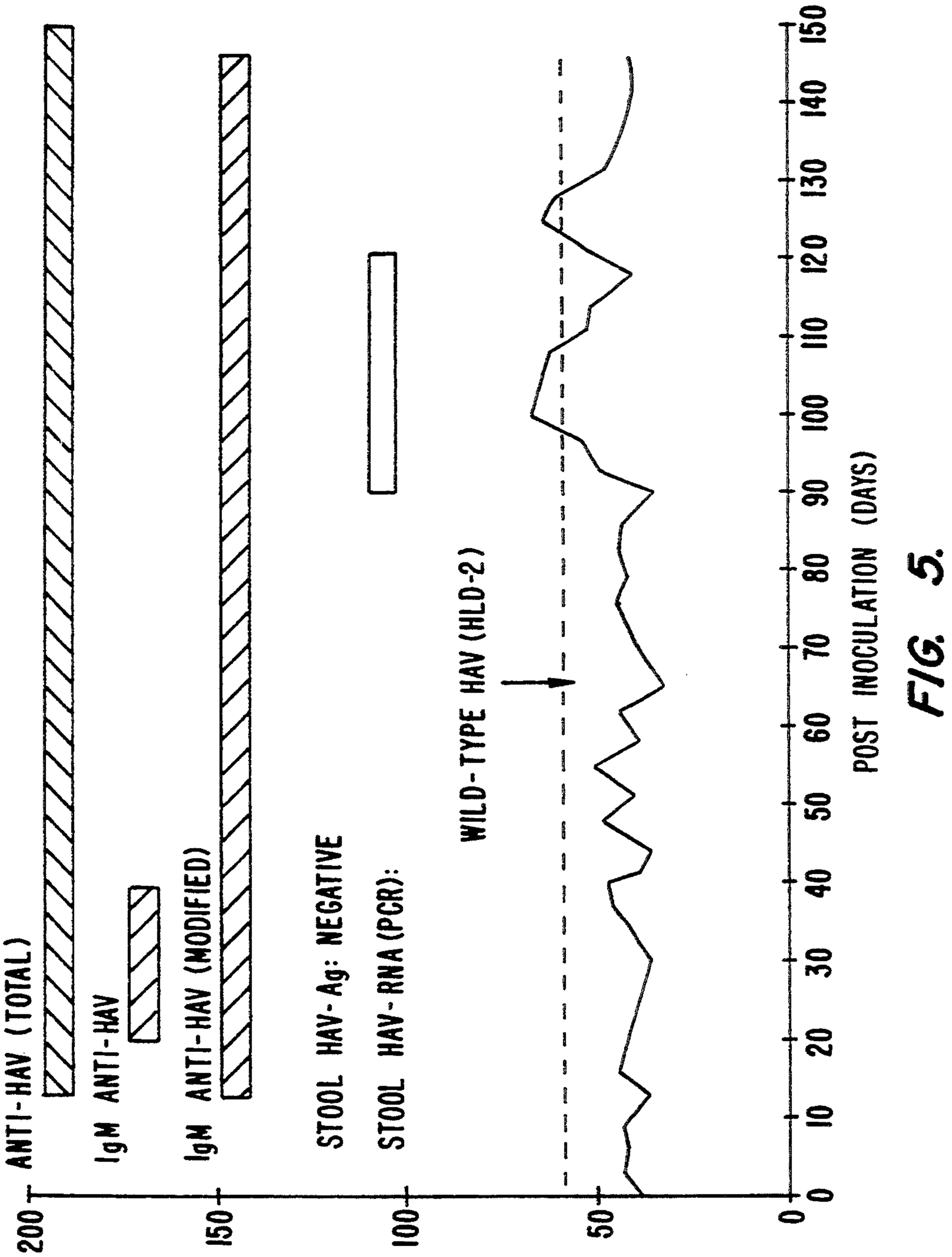
CHIMP 1388
ANTI-HAV (TOTAL)
IgM ANTI-HAV
IgM ANTI-HAV (MODIFIED)
STOOL HAV-Ag: NEGATIVE
STOOL HAV-RNA (PCR):
WILD-TYPE HAV (HLD-2)
ALANINE AMINOTRANSFERASE (U/L)
200
150
100
50
0
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
POST INOCULATION (DAYS)

FIG. 5.

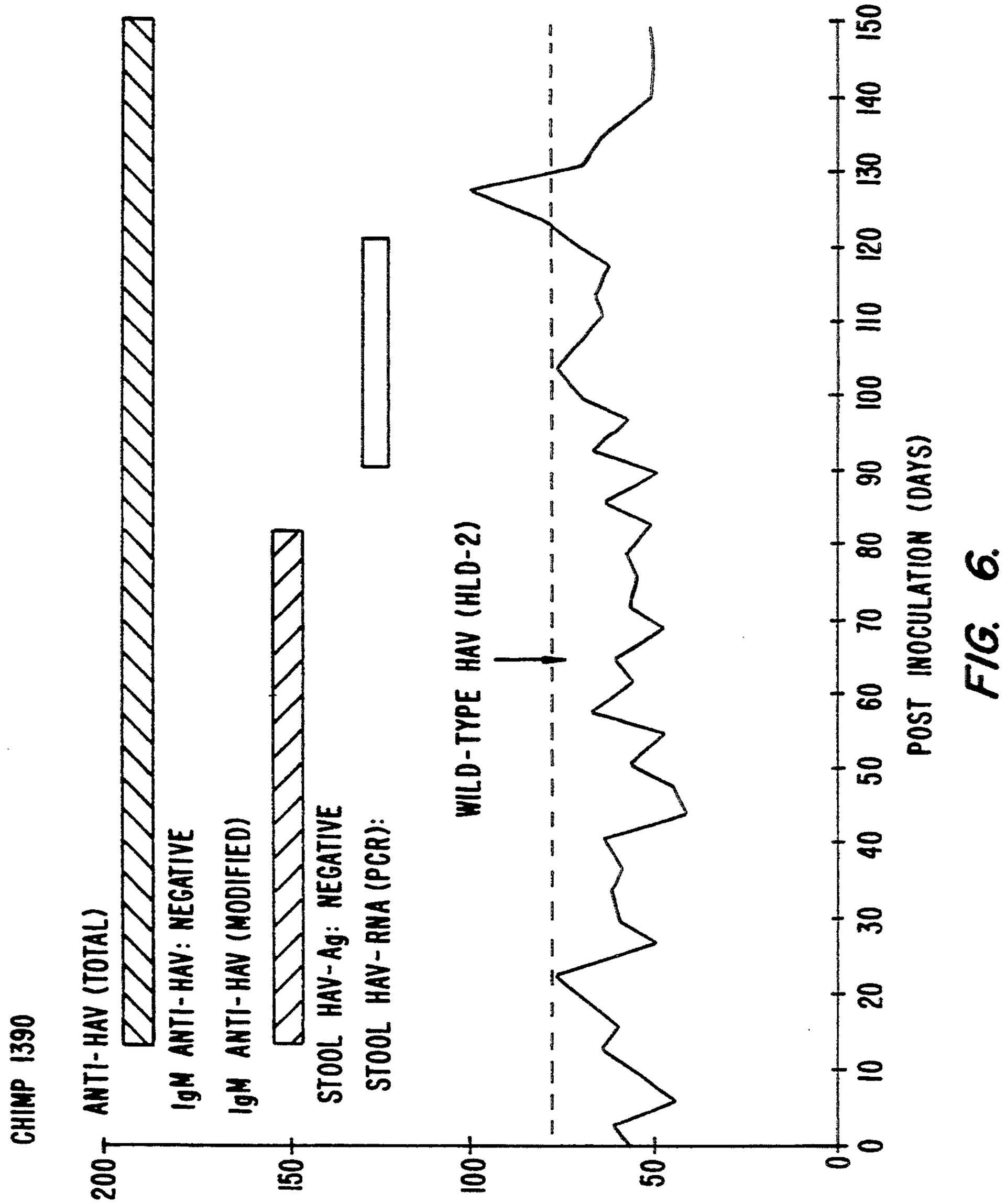
CHIMP 1390
ANTI-HAV (TOTAL)
IgM ANTI-HAV: NEGATIVE
IgM ANTI-HAV (MODIFIED)
STOOL HAV-Ag: NEGATIVE
STOOL HAV-RNA (PCR):
WILD-TYPE HAV (HLD-2)
ALANINE AMINOTRANSFERASE (U/L)
200
150
100
50
0
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
100
110
120
130
140
150
POST INOCULATION (DAYS)

FIG. 6.

DNA SEQUENCE ENCODING A CYNOMOLGUS MONKEY HEPATITIS A VIRUS CAPSID PROTEIN

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 07/678,828, filed Apr. 3, 1991, now abandoned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates, in general, to hepatitis A viruses. In particular, the present invention relates to cynomolgus monkey hepatitis A viruses and vaccines containing same.

2. Background Information

Humans have been considered the natural host for hepatitis A virus (HAV), although nonhuman primates can be infected experimentally (Dienstag, J. L., et al. (1975) Journal of Infectious Diseases 132, 532–545). Human HAV is a single serotype and different isolates have shown a high degree of nucleotide and amino acid conservation. HAV infections in wild-caught Panamanian owl monkeys (*Aotus trivireatus*) have been thought to be caused by a host-specific HAV, designated PA 21 (Brown, E. A., et al. (1989) Journal of Virology 63, 4932–4937). Although the nucleic acid sequence of the capsid region of PA 21 differs by more than 17% from most of the sequenced human HAV isolates, this genotype has now been identified in patients with hepatitis A (Jansen, R. W., et al, (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87, 2867–2871; Robertson, B. H., et al. (1991) Journal of Infectious Diseases 163, 286–292).

Antibody to HAV has been detected in newly captured cynomolgus macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) and was thought to be the result of infection with human HAV (Burke, D. S., et al. (1984) American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 33, 940–944). The present invention provides the sequence of the capsid region of HAV isolated from cynomolgus monkeys (cyno-HAV) and demonstrates that it is divergent from other HAV isolates and contains significant amino acid changes within the putative immunodominant site.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a general object of this invention to provide a hepatitis A viral isolate.

It is a specific object of this invention to provide the cynomolgus hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55.

It is another object of the invention to provide cDNAs of the genomic RNA of the cynomolgus hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55.

It is another object of the invention to provide a method of preventing hepatitis A in an animal.

It is a further object of the invention to provide vaccines comprising the cynomolgus hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will be clear from the description that follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1. Events during natural infection with cynomolgus HAV. Animal CY 146 was representative of all infections (animal CY 145 was sacrificed at peak of ALT elevation). Alanine amino-transferase (ALT) was determined colorimetrically. Antibody to HAV and IgM antibody to HAV were detected by enzyme immunoassay (HAVAB and HAVAB-M, Abbott Laboratories, N. Chicago, Ill.). HAV antigen in stool was detected by enzyme immunoassay (Margolis, H. S. & Nainan, O. V. (1990) Hepatology 11, 31–37).

FIG. 2. Strategy for sequencing the capsid region of CY-145 by using PCR generated overlapping fragments. Twenty to 25-mer forward and reverse primers are indicated by arrows. The numbers above the arrows indicate the start of each PCR fragment relative to the human HAV genome (Cohen, J. I. et al. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 2497–2501). Primer sequences were derived from the consensus sequence for human HAV using the computer algorithm described by Devereux, J., et al. ((1983) Nucleic Acids Research 12, 387–395).

FIG. 3. Nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) and predicted amino acid (SEQ ID NO:2) sequence of the capsid region of CY-145. The right angle arrows indicate cleavage sites of capsid polyproteins. Straight arrow indicates position of three nucleotide deletion, relative to human HAV, at 5′ end of P2 region. A partial sequence for the CY-55/JM-55 capsid region is shown above (nucleotides) (SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:5) or below (amino acids) the CY-145 sequence. Asterisks indicate amino acids involved in the proposed immunodominant site. Dots indicate identical sequence and changes are indicated by the appropriate letter code.

FIG. 4. Relationship among the nucleotide sequences of the capsid regions of HAV isolates obtained by pairwise analysis. The percentage variation is the horizontal distance connecting any two isolates. Human isolates are indicated by dark lines, and simian isolates are indicated by shaded lines.

FIG. 5. Chimpanzee 1388 inoculated intravenously with liver suspension from cynomolgus macaque JM 55. ------ represents cutoff value (99% confidence) for ALT calculated from the values during the month prior to inoculation.

FIG. 6. Chimpanzee 1390 inoculated intravenously with liver suspension from cynomolgus macaque JM 55. ------- represents cutoff value (99% confidence) for ALT calculated from the values during the month prior to inoculation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a cynomolgus hepatitis A viral isolate.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to substantially pure preparations of viral isolates having the characteristics of cynomolgus hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55. The preferred isolates were immunocaptured in microfuge tubes coated with polyclonal rabbit anti-human-HAV and shown to be substantially free of contaminating viruses. The immunocaptured virus is free of any other contaminating viruses, since the antibody is specific for hepatitis A virus.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to cDNAs of the genomic RNA of cynomolgus hepatitis A viral isolates having the characteristics of CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55. In one preferred embodiment, the cDNAs have the sequences shown in FIG. 3, or portions thereof encoding viral antigens.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to a method of preventing hepatitis A in an animal. The method comprises administering to the animal the above-described hepatitis A viral isolate, preferably CY-145 or CY-55/JM-55, under conditions such that

hepatitis A is prevented. The virus prior to use may be adapted in a cell-line suitable for human vaccine development thus producing a whole virus vaccine that could be either live attenuated or inactivated. Additionally, if cloned into an expression vector, the cDNA coding for the capsid region of the virus may provide virus-like antigen which could substitute for the whole virus. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the amounts to be administered for any particular treatment protocol can readily be determined. Animals suitable for use in the claimed method include humans and chimpanzees.

In a further embodiment, the present invention relates to a vaccine comprising the above-described hepatitis A viral isolate CY-145 or CY-55/JM-55 in an amount effective to prevent hepatitis A in an animal and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier, or excipient. The preferred vaccine of the invention includes the viral isolate CY-145 or CY-55/JM-55 in a quantity selected depending on the route of administration (preferably, intramuscular (I.M.)). Appropriate concentrations and dosage unit sizes can be readily determined by one skilled in the art. Suitable amounts might be expected to fall within the range of approximately 10^7 to approximately 10^8 viral particles. Given the sequence and the viruses described, one skilled in the art could clone and express the antigenic regions of these hepatitis viruses for the purpose of vaccine development. Additionally, the hepatitis A viral isolates CY-145 or CY-55/JM-55 can be used in genetically engineered chimeric vaccines.

The present invention is described in further detail in the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLE 1

Isolation and Characterization of a Hepatitis A Virus

Cyno-HAV, isolated from two different sources, was used in this study. One isolate (CY-145) was obtained from the stool of an animal with serologically and histologically confirmed spontaneous hepatitis A (FIG. 1). This animal was one of a group of six animals that contracted disease in quarantine after being imported from the Philippines. A second isolate came from the stool of a cynomolgus macaque inoculated intravenously with a 10% liver homogenate obtained from a macaque imported from Indonesia (JM-55/CY-55) that spontaneously developed HAV infection (Andjarparidze, A. G., et al. (1985) Voprosy Virusologii 4, 468–474).

Cyno-HAV was immunocaptured in microfuge tubes coated with polyclonal rabbit anti-human-HAV, as previously described (Robertson, B.H., et al. (1991) Journal of Infectious Diseases 163, 286–292). Viral RNA for amplification by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was isolated by digestion with proteinase K (2 mg/ml, Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, Ind.) in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, containing 10 mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS, and 1% vanadyl-ribonucleoside complexes at 42° C. for 1 hr, using beta-globin mRNA (BRL, Gaithersburg, Md.) as a carrier, followed by serial extraction with phenol-chloroform and chloroform and ethanol precipitation. The RNA was resuspended in 50% DMSO, incubated at 60° C. for 25 min before annealing with an appropriate oligonucleotide primer at 65° C. for 15 min, and reverse transcribed, as described previously (Margolis, H.S. & Nainan, O.V. (1990) Hepatology 11, 31–37; Robertson, B. H., et al. (1991) Journal of Infectious Diseases 163, 286–292). The resulting cDNA was ethanol precipitated, resuspended in PCR buffer containing the amplification primers, dNTP's and Taq polymerase, and amplified for 30 cycles using optimal conditions calculated according to the primer's T_m and the expected length of the amplified fragment (FIG. 2).

PCR products were purified on a 4.5% acrylamide gel. DNA from ethidium bromide-stained bands of the appropriate size was eluted as described (Maniatis, T., et al. (1989) Molecular cloning: A laboratory manual. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.). The eluted samples were passed through spinnex columns (Costar, Cambridge, Mass.) to remove residual polyacrylamide. DNA was purified by serial phenol-chloroform and chloroform extraction, ethanol precipitated, and resuspended in TE buffer (10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8) and quantitated by the DNA dipstick method (Invitrogen, San Diego, Calif.).

Double-stranded PCR products were sequenced using a modification of the dideoxy chain termination method (Sanger, F., et al. (1977) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 74, 5463–5467; Winship, P. (1989) Nucleic Acids Research 17, 1266). Purified PCR-DNA and primer (10–20 pmoles) were dried with 10 μCi 35_S dATP (Amersham), and the sequencing reaction was done using Sequenase (Sequenase kit, USB, Cleveland, Ohio). Single-strand binding protein (0.5 μg, USB) was added to the annealed template-primer mixture, and concentrations of nucleotides were reduced sixfold from those described in the original procedure (Winship, p. (1989) Nucleic Acids Research 17, 1266). After the reaction was stopped, the samples were treated with proteinase K as described previously (Robertson, B. H., et al. (1991) Journal of Infectious Diseases 163, 286–292). Samples were denatured at 78° C. for 2 min and snap-cooled, and electrophoresis was performed at 1500 volts on a 6% polyacrylamide gel containing 8M urea.

Initial sequencing of each fragment was done with the primers used for PCR amplification; the sequencing of the fragment was then extended using primers derived from the sequence obtained. Fragments were amplified at least twice from viral RNA and both strands of amplified DNA were sequenced. The complete sequence of the capsid region of CY-145 and a partial sequence of this region of JM-55/CY-55 are shown in FIG. 3. The nucleic acid sequence was analyzed using computer algorithms provided by the Genetics Computer Group, University of Wisconsin (Devereux, J., et al. (1983) Nucleic Acids Research 12, 387–395). When compared with human HAV isolates, no insertions or deletions were present in the capsid region of the cyno isolates. CY-145 differs in 446 (18.8%) of the 2,373 capsid region nucleotides from the human HAV isolate HM175 (Cohen, J. I., et al. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 2497–2501). However, 370 of these changes are at the third position of a codon and do not alter the amino acid composition of the translated protein. The majority of the amino acid changes observed were located within the VP3 and VP1 proteins. Analysis of the proposed cleavage sites of the capsid proteins (Linemeyer, D. L., et al. (1985) Journal of Virology 54, 247–255; Cohen, J. I., et al. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 2497–2501) showed an amino acid substitution at the VP3-VP1 cleavage site. In all human HAV isolates sequenced to date, a Gln-Val pair is cleaved at this site, where as in cyno isolates, the valine is replaced by threonine. The amino acid composition of this cleavage site is analo-

gous to that of foot and mouth disease virus (Strohmaier, K., et al. (1978) Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. 85, 1640–1645). The other two cleavage sites of the capsid protein of CY-145 are identical to those in human HAV. A three-nucleotide deletion was observed near the 5′ end of the CY-145 nonstructural region (FIG. 3).

A comparison of amino acid and nucleotide identity between the capsid region of CY-145 and other HAV isolates is shown in Table 1. All human HAV isolates diverge from each other by 5.12% in the nucleotide sequence of the capsid region and have only one to three amino acid changes (Robertson, B. H., et al. (1988) In: Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease, pp. 48–54, ed. A. J. Zuckermann, Alan R. Liss, N.Y.). The putative new world monkey isolate PA 21 diverges from human isolates by about 17% at the nucleotide level and by 2.9–3.8% at the amino acid level (Brown, E. A., et al. (1989) Journal of Virology 63, 4932–4937). However, PA 21 is serotypically identical to human HAV, since all monoclonal antibodies to human HAV tested have been shown to bind to this isolate (Brown, E. A., et al. (1989) Journal of Virology 63, 4932–4937). The nucleotide sequence of the VP3 and VP1 region of CY-145 differs from all sequenced HAV strains by 18–20%, and by more than 7% at the amino acid level. The partial sequence of the Indonesian isolate (CY-55/JM-55) showed an 18% nucleotide variation and a 3.4% amino acid variation when compared with other HAV strains, including CY-145.

Some of the amino acid changes common to CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55 appear important to the final antigenic structure as defined by binding to neutralizing monoclonal antibodies raised against human HAV. Antibody binding was assessed by enzyme immunoassay using microtiter wells (Immulon II, Dynatech, Arlington, Va.) coated with monoclonal antibody; biotinylated anti-HAV IgG (chimpanzee) and strepavidin HRP were used as the detector. Polyclonal rabbit anti-HAV showed 100% binding to human HAV (cell culture adapted strain HAS-15), CY-145 and CY-55/JM-55. HAS-15 had 95% and 72% binding, respectively, to monoclonal antibodies H7C27 (Dawson, J. G., et al. (1984) Journal of Medical Virology 14, 1–8) and K24F2 (MacGregor, A., et al. (1983) Journal of Clinical Microbiology 18, 1237–1243). However, both cyno viruses only showed a 1.4% binding to these monoclonal antibodies; findings similar to these were described by Karetnyi, Y. V., et al. (1989). Voprosy Virusolologiil, 50–53. Two amino acid residues have been identified as part of the immunodominant region in human HAV using escape mutants to monoclonal antibody K24F2 (Ping, L. H., et al. (1988) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85, 8281–8285). Both of these amino acids were substituted in the cyno-HAV isolates (FIG. 3). The presence of amino acid changes in the immunodominant region of cyno-HAV that are similar to those found in antibody resistant mutants suggest these changes may be responsible for the lack of monoclonal antibody binding.

Pairwise comparisons (Rico Hesse, R., et al. (1987) Virology 160, 311–322) of the nucleotide sequence of the capsid regions of the cyno-HAV isolates, human isolates, and PA21 isolate are shown in FIG. 4. This analysis indicates that cyno-HAV isolates vary from each other by approximately 20%, that they vary from the majority of human isolates by about 20%, and that they vary from the PA 21 isolate by 20%. The diversity observed between the two cynomolgus monkey viruses is likely due to their geographic isolation.

In general nucleotide variation with human HAV isolates at the capsid region ranged from 5–12% except for the PA 21 isolates which have been found in the monkeys and humans. However none of the human HAV isolates, including PA21, appear to have the amino acid changes at the identified immunodominant region, and none have shown decreased binding to monoclonal antibodies. No other HAV isolates have the unique amino acid substitution at the VP3-VP1 cleavage site as the cyno isolates. The genetic and antigenic divergence of the cyno-HAV from human isolates and the genetic diversity among geographically isolated cyno HAV isolates strongly suggest that distinct simian hepatitis A viruses exist.

TABLE 1

Percentage identity in amino acid and nucleotide composition of the capsid region of human HAV isolates compared with simian HAV isolates CY-145 and PA21.

Capsid proteins.	HM-175	CR326	HAS-15	MBB	LA	PA21	CY-145
			Amino acids				
VP0							
CY-145	96.0	93.9	95.9	95.9	95.9	95.9	—
PA21	98.8	96.0	96.9	98.8	96.9	—	95.9
VP3							
CY-145	92.7	92.7	93.1	92.7	93.1	92.3	—
PA21	98.4	98.0	98.0	98.4	98.0	—	92.3
VP1							
CY-145	92.4	91.4	92.9	92.3	91.0	92.3	—
PA21	95.3	95.0	93.3	95.3	95.3	—	92.3
			Nucleotides				
VP0							
CY-145	81.6	81.9	82.4	81.7	83.1	81.5	—
PA21	87.9	87.6	88.2	86.5	88.5	—	81.5
VP3							
CY-145	82.4	80.5	80.9	82.4	81.4	82.4	—
PA21	84.8	85.2	84.7	86.0	85.5	—	82.4
VP1							
CY-145	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.3	78.6	80.3	—
PA21	83.2	82.9	82.1	83.1	82.9	—	80.3

EXAMPLE 2

In vivo Studies

Chimpanzees were inoculated intravenously with 1.0 ml of 10% liver suspension from cynomolgus macque JM 55. On day 65 post inoculation, they were inoculated intravenously with 1.0 ml of a 10% stool suspension containing wild-type HAV previously shown to be infectious (HLD-2). When injected into a chimpanzee intravenously, the cynomolgus hepatitis A virus induces an antibody response (anti-HAV) that is detected by current immunoassays (FIGS. **5** and **6**). The cynomolgus virus does not produce evidence of clinical infection such as elevated liver enzymes (ALT) and that the virus is not shed in the stool as determined by a very sensitive technique, amplification by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

When the chimpanzees were challenged with a well pedigreed human virus known to produce infection (with high ALT elevations) in chimpanzees, the antibody induced by the cynomolgus HAV provides partial protection from infection as shown by a minimal rise in liver enzymes and shedding of virus in stool that is only detectable by PCR amplification (FIGS. **5** and **6**).

All publications mentioned hereinabove are hereby incorporated in their entirety by reference.

While the foregoing invention has been described in some detail for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be appreciated by one skilled in the art from a reading of this disclosure that various changes in form and detail can be made without departing from the true scope of the invention and appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i i i) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 6

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 2520 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(i x) FEATURE:
(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 4..2520

(x i) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

```
ATG ATG AAT ATG GCT AGA CAA GGA TTG TTT CAG ACT GTT GGT AGT GGC          48
    Met Asn Met Ala Arg Gln Gly Leu Phe Gln Thr Val Gly Ser Gly
      1               5                  10                  15

CTT GAC CAC ATT CTT TCT TTG GCT GAC GTC GAG GAA GAG CAA ATG ATT          96
Leu Asp His Ile Leu Ser Leu Ala Asp Val Glu Glu Glu Gln Met Ile
                  20                  25                  30

CAA TCT GTT GAT AGA ACA GCT GTG ACT GGA GCT TCA TAC TTC ACT TCT         144
Gln Ser Val Asp Arg Thr Ala Val Thr Gly Ala Ser Tyr Phe Thr Ser
              35                  40                  45

GTA GAC CAA TCT TCA GTC CAT ACA GCA GAA GTT GGT TCT CAT CAA TCA         192
Val Asp Gln Ser Ser Val His Thr Ala Glu Val Gly Ser His Gln Ser
          50                  55                  60

GAG CCT TTG AAA ACC TCA GTT GAT AAA CCA GGC TCA AAA AAG ACA CAG         240
Glu Pro Leu Lys Thr Ser Val Asp Lys Pro Gly Ser Lys Lys Thr Gln
      65                  70                  75

GGT GAG AAA TTT TTC CTC ATT CAT TCA GCT GAT TGG TTG TCT ACG CAT         288
Gly Glu Lys Phe Phe Leu Ile His Ser Ala Asp Trp Leu Ser Thr His
  80                  85                  90                  95

GCT TTA TTT CAT GAG GTG GCC AAG CTT GAT GTG GTT AGT TTG CTT TAT         336
Ala Leu Phe His Glu Val Ala Lys Leu Asp Val Val Ser Leu Leu Tyr
                 100                 105                 110

AAT GAG CAA TTT GCA GTC CAA GGA TTG TTG AGA TAT CAC ACT TAT GCT         384
Asn Glu Gln Phe Ala Val Gln Gly Leu Leu Arg Tyr His Thr Tyr Ala
             115                 120                 125

AGG TTT GGA ATT GAG ATT CAA GTT CAA ATA AAT CCT ACT CCT TTT CAA         432
Arg Phe Gly Ile Glu Ile Gln Val Gln Ile Asn Pro Thr Pro Phe Gln
         130                 135                 140

CAA GGA GGA CTA ATT TGT GCT ATG GTT CCT GGG GAT CAA GGC TAT GGG         480
Gln Gly Gly Leu Ile Cys Ala Met Val Pro Gly Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gly
     145                 150                 155
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TCT ATT GCT TCT CTC ACT GTT TAT CCA CAT GGT TTG CTG AAT TGT AAT          528
Ser Ile Ala Ser Leu Thr Val Tyr Pro His Gly Leu Leu Asn Cys Asn
160                 165                 170                 175

ATC AAT AAT GTG GTT AGA ATC AAA GTT CCA TTT ATT TAT ACT AGA GGA          576
Ile Asn Asn Val Val Arg Ile Lys Val Pro Phe Ile Tyr Thr Arg Gly
                180                 185                 190

GCT TAC CAT TTC AAG GAC CCC CAA TAC CCT GTT TGG GAA TTA ACA ATC          624
Ala Tyr His Phe Lys Asp Pro Gln Tyr Pro Val Trp Glu Leu Thr Ile
            195                 200                 205

AGA GTA TGG TCA GAA TTC AAT ATT GGA ACT GGA ACT TCT GCA TAC ACG          672
Arg Val Trp Ser Glu Phe Asn Ile Gly Thr Gly Thr Ser Ala Tyr Thr
        210                 215                 220

TCA TTG AAT GTA TTA GCT AGA TTT ACT GAT CTT GAG TTG CAT GGT CTC          720
Ser Leu Asn Val Leu Ala Arg Phe Thr Asp Leu Glu Leu His Gly Leu
225                 230                 235

ACT CCA TTG TCT ACC CAG ATG ATG AGA AAT GAA TTT AGG GTG AGT ACC          768
Thr Pro Leu Ser Thr Gln Met Met Arg Asn Glu Phe Arg Val Ser Thr
240                 245                 250                 255

ACA GAA AAT GTT GTT AAT CTT TCT AAT TAT GAA GAC GCA AGA GCA AAA          816
Thr Glu Asn Val Val Asn Leu Ser Asn Tyr Glu Asp Ala Arg Ala Lys
            260                 265                 270

ATG TCA TTT GCA TTG GAT CAA GAG AAT TGG AGA TCT GAT CCA TCT GAG          864
Met Ser Phe Ala Leu Asp Gln Glu Asn Trp Arg Ser Asp Pro Ser Glu
        275                 280                 285

GGT GGA GGA ATC AAG ATT ACT CAT TTC TCT ACT TGG ACC TCA ATA CCA          912
Gly Gly Gly Ile Lys Ile Thr His Phe Ser Thr Trp Thr Ser Ile Pro
    290                 295                 300

ACT TTG GCA GCT CAG TTT GCT TTT AAT GCT TCA GCT TCA GTG GGA CAG          960
Thr Leu Ala Ala Gln Phe Ala Phe Asn Ala Ser Ala Ser Val Gly Gln
305                 310                 315

CAG ATT AAG GTT ATA CCT GTT GAT CCA TAT TTT TAT CAA ATG ACA AAT         1008
Gln Ile Lys Val Ile Pro Val Asp Pro Tyr Phe Tyr Gln Met Thr Asn
320                 325                 330                 335

TCA AAT CCT GAT CAG AAA TAC ATT ACT GCT TTA GCT TCA ATT TGT CAG         1056
Ser Asn Pro Asp Gln Lys Tyr Ile Thr Ala Leu Ala Ser Ile Cys Gln
            340                 345                 350

ATG TTT TGT TTT TGG AGA GGA GAT TTA GTT TTT GAT TTT CAA GTT TTT         1104
Met Phe Cys Phe Trp Arg Gly Asp Leu Val Phe Asp Phe Gln Val Phe
        355                 360                 365

CCT ACA AAG TAT CAT TCA GGA AGA TTG CAA TTT TGT TTT GTA CCT GGA         1152
Pro Thr Lys Tyr His Ser Gly Arg Leu Gln Phe Cys Phe Val Pro Gly
    370                 375                 380

AAT GAG TTA ATT GAA GTA ACT TCT ATA ACA TTG AAA CAG GCT ACT ACT         1200
Asn Glu Leu Ile Glu Val Thr Ser Ile Thr Leu Lys Gln Ala Thr Thr
385                 390                 395

GCC CCA TGT GCA GTG ATG GAC ATT ACA GGA GTA CAA TCG ACA CTA AGA         1248
Ala Pro Cys Ala Val Met Asp Ile Thr Gly Val Gln Ser Thr Leu Arg
400                 405                 410                 415

TTT CGA GTC CCT TGG ATC TCA GAT ACT CCT TAC AGA GTC AAT TGT TAT         1296
Phe Arg Val Pro Trp Ile Ser Asp Thr Pro Tyr Arg Val Asn Cys Tyr
            420                 425                 430

ATT AAG TCC TCA CAT CAG AAG GGT GAA TAT ACA GCG ATT GAA AAA TTG         1344
Ile Lys Ser Ser His Gln Lys Gly Glu Tyr Thr Ala Ile Glu Lys Leu
        435                 440                 445

ATT GTT TAC TGT TAC AAC AGA TTG ACT TCT CCT TCT AAT GTT GCA TCC         1392
Ile Val Tyr Cys Tyr Asn Arg Leu Thr Ser Pro Ser Asn Val Ala Ser
    450                 455                 460

CAT GTC AGA GTT AAC GTT TAT CTG TCA GCA ATC AAT TTG GAG TGC TTT         1440
His Val Arg Val Asn Val Tyr Leu Ser Ala Ile Asn Leu Glu Cys Phe
465                 470                 475

GCT CCA CTA TAT CAT GCT ATG GAT GTC ACA TCT CAA ACT GGA GAT GAC         1488
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Ala Pro Leu Tyr His Ala Met Asp Val Thr Ser Gln Thr Gly Asp Asp
480                 485                 490                 495

TCA GGA GGC TTT TCT ACT ACT GTT TCC ACT GAG CAA AAT GTG CCT GAT      1536
Ser Gly Gly Phe Ser Thr Thr Val Ser Thr Glu Gln Asn Val Pro Asp
                    500                 505                 510

CCG CAA GTT GGA ATT ACA ACT CCA AAG GAC TTG AAG GGG AAG GCT AAT      1584
Pro Gln Val Gly Ile Thr Thr Pro Lys Asp Leu Lys Gly Lys Ala Asn
                515                 520                 525

AAG GGA AAG ATG GAT GTT TCT GGT GTT CAA GCC CCT GTT GGA GCA ATA      1632
Lys Gly Lys Met Asp Val Ser Gly Val Gln Ala Pro Val Gly Ala Ile
            530                 535                 540

ACA ACA ATA GAG GAT CCA GTT CTT GCT AAG AAG GTT CCT GAG ACC TTC      1680
Thr Thr Ile Glu Asp Pro Val Leu Ala Lys Lys Val Pro Glu Thr Phe
        545                 550                 555

CCT GAA TTG AAG CCT GGT GAA TCT AGG CAT ACA TCT GAT CAC ATG TCT      1728
Pro Glu Leu Lys Pro Gly Glu Ser Arg His Thr Ser Asp His Met Ser
    560                 565                 570                 575

GTG TAC AAA TTT ATG GGA AGG TCA CAT TTC TTG TGC ACT TTT ACA TTT      1776
Val Tyr Lys Phe Met Gly Arg Ser His Phe Leu Cys Thr Phe Thr Phe
                580                 585                 590

AAT GCA AAT AAC AGG GAA TAT ACT TTT CCA ATA ACC TTA TCA TCA ACT      1824
Asn Ala Asn Asn Arg Glu Tyr Thr Phe Pro Ile Thr Leu Ser Ser Thr
            595                 600                 605

TCA AAT CCT CCA CAT GGA TCT CCA TCC ACA TTG AGG TGG TTT TTT AAC      1872
Ser Asn Pro Pro His Gly Ser Pro Ser Thr Leu Arg Trp Phe Phe Asn
        610                 615                 620

CTA TTT CAG CTC TAT AGA GGC CCG TTA GAT TTG ACT ATC ATC ATC ACT      1920
Leu Phe Gln Leu Tyr Arg Gly Pro Leu Asp Leu Thr Ile Ile Ile Thr
    625                 630                 635

GGA GCC ACA GAT GTT GAT GGA ATG GCA TGG TTC ACA CCT GTT GGT TTG      1968
Gly Ala Thr Asp Val Asp Gly Met Ala Trp Phe Thr Pro Val Gly Leu
640                 645                 650                 655

GCT GTA GAT ACC CCT TGG GTA GAG AAG CAG TCT GCT CTG ACA ATT GAT      2016
Ala Val Asp Thr Pro Trp Val Glu Lys Gln Ser Ala Leu Thr Ile Asp
                660                 665                 670

TAT AAA ACT GCT TTG GGA GCT ATC AGA TTT AAC ACG AGA AGA ACT GGG      2064
Tyr Lys Thr Ala Leu Gly Ala Ile Arg Phe Asn Thr Arg Arg Thr Gly
            675                 680                 685

AAC ATT CAA ATT AGA TTG CCT TGG TAC TCA TAT CTT TAT GCA GTG TCA      2112
Asn Ile Gln Ile Arg Leu Pro Trp Tyr Ser Tyr Leu Tyr Ala Val Ser
        690                 695                 700

GGT GCT CTG GAT GGA CTT GGA GAT ACA ACG GAC TCA ACT TTT GGT CTA      2160
Gly Ala Leu Asp Gly Leu Gly Asp Thr Thr Asp Ser Thr Phe Gly Leu
    705                 710                 715

GTT TCT ATA CAG ATT GCA AAT TAC AAT CAC TCT GAT GAA TAC TTG TCT      2208
Val Ser Ile Gln Ile Ala Asn Tyr Asn His Ser Asp Glu Tyr Leu Ser
720                 725                 730                 735

TTT AGT TGT TAT TTG TCT GTT ACA GAA CAA TCT GAA TTT TTC TTT CCT      2256
Phe Ser Cys Tyr Leu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Ser Glu Phe Phe Phe Pro
                740                 745                 750

AGG GCT CCT TTG AAT TCA AGT GCT ATG ATG ACT TCT GAA AAT ATG TTA      2304
Arg Ala Pro Leu Asn Ser Ser Ala Met Met Thr Ser Glu Asn Met Leu
            755                 760                 765

GAC AGA ATT GCT GGA GGT GAT CTT GAG TCG TCA GTA GAT GAC CCC CGT      2352
Asp Arg Ile Ala Gly Gly Asp Leu Glu Ser Ser Val Asp Asp Pro Arg
        770                 775                 780

ACA GAT GAA GAT CGT AGA TTT GAG AGT CAT ATT GAG AAG AAA CCA TAC      2400
Thr Asp Glu Asp Arg Arg Phe Glu Ser His Ile Glu Lys Lys Pro Tyr
    785                 790                 795

AAG GAG TTG AGA CTT GAG GTT GGT AAG CAG AGA TTC AAA TAT GCA AGA      2448
Lys Glu Leu Arg Leu Glu Val Gly Lys Gln Arg Phe Lys Tyr Ala Arg
800                 805                 810                 815
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GAA GAA TTG TCA AAT GAG ATC TTG CCT CCC CCT AGG AAA TTG AAA GGA      2496
Glu Glu Leu Ser Asn Glu Ile Leu Pro Pro Pro Arg Lys Leu Lys Gly
                820                 825                 830

TTG TTT TCA CAA TCA AAA ATT TCC                                    2520
Leu Phe Ser Gln Ser Lys Ile Ser
            835
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 839 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(i i) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(x i) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

```
Met Asn Met Ala Arg Gln Gly Leu Phe Gln Thr Val Gly Ser Gly Leu
 1               5                  10                  15

Asp His Ile Leu Ser Leu Ala Asp Val Glu Glu Glu Gln Met Ile Gln
            20                  25                  30

Ser Val Asp Arg Thr Ala Val Thr Gly Ala Ser Tyr Phe Thr Ser Val
        35                  40                  45

Asp Gln Ser Ser Val His Thr Ala Glu Val Gly Ser His Gln Ser Glu
    50                  55                  60

Pro Leu Lys Thr Ser Val Asp Lys Pro Gly Ser Lys Lys Thr Gln Gly
65                  70                  75                  80

Glu Lys Phe Phe Leu Ile His Ser Ala Asp Trp Leu Ser Thr His Ala
                85                  90                  95

Leu Phe His Glu Val Ala Lys Leu Asp Val Val Ser Leu Leu Tyr Asn
            100                 105                 110

Glu Gln Phe Ala Val Gln Gly Leu Leu Arg Tyr His Thr Tyr Ala Arg
        115                 120                 125

Phe Gly Ile Glu Ile Gln Val Gln Ile Asn Pro Thr Pro Phe Gln Gln
    130                 135                 140

Gly Gly Leu Ile Cys Ala Met Val Pro Gly Asp Gln Gly Tyr Gly Ser
145                 150                 155                 160

Ile Ala Ser Leu Thr Val Tyr Pro His Gly Leu Leu Asn Cys Asn Ile
                165                 170                 175

Asn Asn Val Val Arg Ile Lys Val Pro Phe Ile Tyr Thr Arg Gly Ala
            180                 185                 190

Tyr His Phe Lys Asp Pro Gln Tyr Pro Val Trp Glu Leu Thr Ile Arg
        195                 200                 205

Val Trp Ser Glu Phe Asn Ile Gly Thr Gly Thr Ser Ala Tyr Thr Ser
    210                 215                 220

Leu Asn Val Leu Ala Arg Phe Thr Asp Leu Glu Leu His Gly Leu Thr
225                 230                 235                 240

Pro Leu Ser Thr Gln Met Met Arg Asn Glu Phe Arg Val Ser Thr Thr
                245                 250                 255

Glu Asn Val Val Asn Leu Ser Asn Tyr Glu Asp Ala Arg Ala Lys Met
            260                 265                 270

Ser Phe Ala Leu Asp Gln Glu Asn Trp Arg Ser Asp Pro Ser Glu Gly
        275                 280                 285

Gly Gly Ile Lys Ile Thr His Phe Ser Thr Trp Thr Ser Ile Pro Thr
    290                 295                 300

Leu Ala Ala Gln Phe Ala Phe Asn Ala Ser Ala Ser Val Gly Gln Gln
305                 310                 315                 320

Ile Lys Val Ile Pro Val Asp Pro Tyr Phe Tyr Gln Met Thr Asn Ser
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-continued

					325					330						335			
Asn	Pro	Asp	Gln	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Ser	Ile	Cys	Gln	Met				
			340					345					350						
Phe	Cys	Phe	Trp	Arg	Gly	Asp	Leu	Val	Phe	Asp	Phe	Gln	Val	Phe	Pro				
		355					360					365							
Thr	Lys	Tyr	His	Ser	Gly	Arg	Leu	Gln	Phe	Cys	Phe	Val	Pro	Gly	Asn				
	370					375					380								
Glu	Leu	Ile	Glu	Val	Thr	Ser	Ile	Thr	Leu	Lys	Gln	Ala	Thr	Thr	Ala				
385					390					395					400				
Pro	Cys	Ala	Val	Met	Asp	Ile	Thr	Gly	Val	Gln	Ser	Thr	Leu	Arg	Phe				
				405					410					415					
Arg	Val	Pro	Trp	Ile	Ser	Asp	Thr	Pro	Tyr	Arg	Val	Asn	Cys	Tyr	Ile				
			420					425					430						
Lys	Ser	Ser	His	Gln	Lys	Gly	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Ala	Ile	Glu	Lys	Leu	Ile				
		435					440					445							
Val	Tyr	Cys	Tyr	Asn	Arg	Leu	Thr	Ser	Pro	Ser	Asn	Val	Ala	Ser	His				
	450					455					460								
Val	Arg	Val	Asn	Val	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Ala	Ile	Asn	Leu	Glu	Cys	Phe	Ala				
465					470					475					480				
Pro	Leu	Tyr	His	Ala	Met	Asp	Val	Thr	Ser	Gln	Thr	Gly	Asp	Asp	Ser				
				485					490					495					
Gly	Gly	Phe	Ser	Thr	Thr	Val	Ser	Thr	Glu	Gln	Asn	Val	Pro	Asp	Pro				
			500					505					510						
Gln	Val	Gly	Ile	Thr	Thr	Pro	Lys	Asp	Leu	Lys	Gly	Lys	Ala	Asn	Lys				
		515					520					525							
Gly	Lys	Met	Asp	Val	Ser	Gly	Val	Gln	Ala	Pro	Val	Gly	Ala	Ile	Thr				
	530					535					540								
Thr	Ile	Glu	Asp	Pro	Val	Leu	Ala	Lys	Lys	Val	Pro	Glu	Thr	Phe	Pro				
545					550					555					560				
Glu	Leu	Lys	Pro	Gly	Glu	Ser	Arg	His	Thr	Ser	Asp	His	Met	Ser	Val				
				565					570					575					
Tyr	Lys	Phe	Met	Gly	Arg	Ser	His	Phe	Leu	Cys	Thr	Phe	Thr	Phe	Asn				
			580					585					590						
Ala	Asn	Asn	Arg	Glu	Tyr	Thr	Phe	Pro	Ile	Thr	Leu	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ser				
		595					600					605							
Asn	Pro	Pro	His	Gly	Ser	Pro	Ser	Thr	Leu	Arg	Trp	Phe	Phe	Asn	Leu				
	610					615					620								
Phe	Gln	Leu	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Pro	Leu	Asp	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ile	Ile	Thr	Gly				
625					630					635					640				
Ala	Thr	Asp	Val	Asp	Gly	Met	Ala	Trp	Phe	Thr	Pro	Val	Gly	Leu	Ala				
				645					650					655					
Val	Asp	Thr	Pro	Trp	Val	Glu	Lys	Gln	Ser	Ala	Leu	Thr	Ile	Asp	Tyr				
			660					665					670						
Lys	Thr	Ala	Leu	Gly	Ala	Ile	Arg	Phe	Asn	Thr	Arg	Arg	Thr	Gly	Asn				
		675					680					685							
Ile	Gln	Ile	Arg	Leu	Pro	Trp	Tyr	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Val	Ser	Gly				
	690					695					700								
Ala	Leu	Asp	Gly	Leu	Gly	Asp	Thr	Thr	Asp	Ser	Thr	Phe	Gly	Leu	Val				
705					710					715					720				
Ser	Ile	Gln	Ile	Ala	Asn	Tyr	Asn	His	Ser	Asp	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Phe				
				725					730					735					
Ser	Cys	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Val	Thr	Glu	Gln	Ser	Glu	Phe	Phe	Phe	Pro	Arg				
			740					745					750						
Ala	Pro	Leu	Asn	Ser	Ser	Ala	Met	Met	Thr	Ser	Glu	Asn	Met	Leu	Asp				
		755					760					765							

-continued

```
Arg Ile Ala Gly Gly Asp Leu Glu Ser Ser Val Asp Asp Pro Arg Thr
    770                 775                 780

Asp Glu Asp Arg Arg Phe Glu Ser His Ile Glu Lys Lys Pro Tyr Lys
785                 790                 795                 800

Glu Leu Arg Leu Glu Val Gly Lys Gln Arg Phe Lys Tyr Ala Arg Glu
                805                 810                 815

Glu Leu Ser Asn Glu Ile Leu Pro Pro Pro Arg Lys Leu Lys Gly Leu
            820                 825                 830

Phe Ser Gln Ser Lys Ile Ser
        835
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 486 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(i x) FEATURE:
(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..486

(x i) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

```
GGT TTA TTA AAT TGC AAT ATT AAC AAT GTA GTA AGA ATC AAG TTC CCT          48
Gly Leu Leu Asn Cys Asn Ile Asn Asn Val Val Arg Ile Lys Phe Pro
  1               5                  10                  15

TTC ATT TAT ACT AGA GGT GCT TAT CAT TTT AAA GAT CCA CAG TAT CCA          96
Phe Ile Tyr Thr Arg Gly Ala Tyr His Phe Lys Asp Pro Gln Tyr Pro
            20                  25                  30

GTC TGG GAA CTT ACA ATT CGT GTG TGG TCT GAG CTC AAT ATT GGA ACT         144
Val Trp Glu Leu Thr Ile Arg Val Trp Ser Glu Leu Asn Ile Gly Thr
        35                  40                  45

GGT ACT TCT GCA TAT ACA TCT TTA AAT GTG CTT GCT AGA TTT ACA GAT         192
Gly Thr Ser Ala Tyr Thr Ser Leu Asn Val Leu Ala Arg Phe Thr Asp
    50                  55                  60

TTG GAG TTG CAT GGC TTG ACT CCA TTG TCT ACT CAG ATG ATG AGA AAT         240
Leu Glu Leu His Gly Leu Thr Pro Leu Ser Thr Gln Met Met Arg Asn
65                  70                  75                  80

GAA TTT AGA GTT AGT ACA ACT GAG AAT GTA GTT AAT TTG TCC AAT TAT         288
Glu Phe Arg Val Ser Thr Thr Glu Asn Val Val Asn Leu Ser Asn Tyr
                85                  90                  95

GAG GAT GCT AGA GCA AAA ATG TCA TTT GCT CTG GAT CAA GAG GAT TGG         336
Glu Asp Ala Arg Ala Lys Met Ser Phe Ala Leu Asp Gln Glu Asp Trp
            100                 105                 110

AAA TCT GAT CCA TCC CAG GGA GGT GGA GTT AAA ATC ACT CAT TTC ACA         384
Lys Ser Asp Pro Ser Gln Gly Gly Gly Val Lys Ile Thr His Phe Thr
        115                 120                 125

ACA TGG ACC TCA ATT CCC ACT TTG GCT GCT CAA TTT GCT TTT AAT GCT         432
Thr Trp Thr Ser Ile Pro Thr Leu Ala Ala Gln Phe Ala Phe Asn Ala
    130                 135                 140

TCA GCT TCT GTG GGA CAA CAA ATT AAG GTT ATT CCT GTT GAT CCT TAT         480
Ser Ala Ser Val Gly Gln Gln Ile Lys Val Ile Pro Val Asp Pro Tyr
145                 150                 155                 160

TTT TAT                                                                 486
Phe Tyr
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 162 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

-continued

(i i) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(x i) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

```
Gly Leu Leu Asn Cys Asn Ile Asn Asn Val Val Arg Ile Lys Phe Pro
 1               5                  10                  15

Phe Ile Tyr Thr Arg Gly Ala Tyr His Phe Lys Asp Pro Gln Tyr Pro
            20                  25                  30

Val Trp Glu Leu Thr Ile Arg Val Trp Ser Glu Leu Asn Ile Gly Thr
        35                  40                  45

Gly Thr Ser Ala Tyr Thr Ser Leu Asn Val Leu Ala Arg Phe Thr Asp
    50                  55                  60

Leu Glu Leu His Gly Leu Thr Pro Leu Ser Thr Gln Met Met Arg Asn
65                  70                  75                  80

Glu Phe Arg Val Ser Thr Thr Glu Asn Val Val Asn Leu Ser Asn Tyr
                85                  90                  95

Glu Asp Ala Arg Ala Lys Met Ser Phe Ala Leu Asp Gln Glu Asp Trp
            100                 105                 110

Lys Ser Asp Pro Ser Gln Gly Gly Gly Val Lys Ile Thr His Phe Thr
        115                 120                 125

Thr Trp Thr Ser Ile Pro Thr Leu Ala Ala Gln Phe Ala Phe Asn Ala
    130                 135                 140

Ser Ala Ser Val Gly Gln Gln Ile Lys Val Ile Pro Val Asp Pro Tyr
145                 150                 155                 160

Phe Tyr
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 668 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(i x) FEATURE:
(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 3..668

(x i) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

```
AT GCT ATG GAT GTT ACA TCC CAG ACA GGA GAT GAT TCT GGA GGT TTT          47
   Ala Met Asp Val Thr Ser Gln Thr Gly Asp Asp Ser Gly Gly Phe
     1               5                  10                  15

TCA ACT ACA GTT TCT ACT GAA CAG AAT GCT CCT GAT CCT CAG GTT GGT          95
Ser Thr Thr Val Ser Thr Glu Gln Asn Ala Pro Asp Pro Gln Val Gly
                20                  25                  30

ATT ACA ACA ATC AAG GAT TTG AAA GGG AAA GCA AAT AGA GGA AAA ATG         143
Ile Thr Thr Ile Lys Asp Leu Lys Gly Lys Ala Asn Arg Gly Lys Met
            35                  40                  45

GAT GTT TCT GGC GTC CAA GCT CCA GTT GGT GCT ATC ACA ACT ATA GAA         191
Asp Val Ser Gly Val Gln Ala Pro Val Gly Ala Ile Thr Thr Ile Glu
        50                  55                  60

GAT CCA GTG TTA GCC AAG AAA ATT CCT GAA ACA TTT CCA GAG TTG AAG         239
Asp Pro Val Leu Ala Lys Lys Ile Pro Glu Thr Phe Pro Glu Leu Lys
    65                  70                  75

CCA GGT GAG TCT AGA CAT ACA TCA GAT CAT ATG TCT ATT TAC AAA TTT         287
Pro Gly Glu Ser Arg His Thr Ser Asp His Met Ser Ile Tyr Lys Phe
80                  85                  90                  95

ATG GGC AGG TCA CAC TTT TTG TGT ACT TTC ACT TTT AAT GCA AAC AAT         335
Met Gly Arg Ser His Phe Leu Cys Thr Phe Thr Phe Asn Ala Asn Asn
                100                 105                 110

AGA GAA TAT ACC TTT CCA ATA ACT TTG TCT TCA ACA TCT AAT CCT CCC         383
Arg Glu Tyr Thr Phe Pro Ile Thr Leu Ser Ser Thr Ser Asn Pro Pro
            115                 120                 125
```

-continued

```
CAT GGT TTG CCA TCA ACT TTA CGG TGG TTC TTT AAT CTG TTT CAG CTG          431
His Gly Leu Pro Ser Thr Leu Arg Trp Phe Phe Asn Leu Phe Gln Leu
        130                 135                 140

TAT AGA GGA CCA CTG GAT TTG ACT ATT ATT ATC ACA GGA GCC ACT GAT          479
Tyr Arg Gly Pro Leu Asp Leu Thr Ile Ile Ile Thr Gly Ala Thr Asp
    145                 150                 155

GTT GAT GGG ATG GCT TGG TTC ACC CCT GTG GGT CTT GCC GTT GAC ACT          527
Val Asp Gly Met Ala Trp Phe Thr Pro Val Gly Leu Ala Val Asp Thr
160                 165                 170                 175

CCT TGG GTG GAA AAG CAG TCA GCT TTA ACT ATT GAT TAT AAG ACA GCA          575
Pro Trp Val Glu Lys Gln Ser Ala Leu Thr Ile Asp Tyr Lys Thr Ala
                180                 185                 190

TTG GGG GCT ATT AGT TTT AAT ACC AGA AGA ACT GGC AAC ATT CAA ATT          623
Leu Gly Ala Ile Ser Phe Asn Thr Arg Arg Thr Gly Asn Ile Gln Ile
            195                 200                 205

AGA CTT CCG TGG TAT TCA TAT CTT TAT GCT GTG TCT GGC GCC CTA              668
Arg Leu Pro Trp Tyr Ser Tyr Leu Tyr Ala Val Ser Gly Ala Leu
        210                 215                 220
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 222 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(i i) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(x i) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

```
Ala Met Asp Val Thr Ser Gln Thr Gly Asp Asp Ser Gly Gly Phe Ser
 1               5                  10                  15

Thr Thr Val Ser Thr Glu Gln Asn Ala Pro Asp Pro Gln Val Gly Ile
            20                  25                  30

Thr Thr Ile Lys Asp Leu Lys Gly Lys Ala Asn Arg Gly Lys Met Asp
        35                  40                  45

Val Ser Gly Val Gln Ala Pro Val Gly Ala Ile Thr Thr Ile Glu Asp
    50                  55                  60

Pro Val Leu Ala Lys Lys Ile Pro Glu Thr Phe Pro Glu Leu Lys Pro
65                  70                  75                  80

Gly Glu Ser Arg His Thr Ser Asp His Met Ser Ile Tyr Lys Phe Met
                85                  90                  95

Gly Arg Ser His Phe Leu Cys Thr Phe Thr Phe Asn Ala Asn Asn Arg
            100                 105                 110

Glu Tyr Thr Phe Pro Ile Thr Leu Ser Ser Thr Ser Asn Pro Pro His
        115                 120                 125

Gly Leu Pro Ser Thr Leu Arg Trp Phe Phe Asn Leu Phe Gln Leu Tyr
    130                 135                 140

Arg Gly Pro Leu Asp Leu Thr Ile Ile Ile Thr Gly Ala Thr Asp Val
145                 150                 155                 160

Asp Gly Met Ala Trp Phe Thr Pro Val Gly Leu Ala Val Asp Thr Pro
                165                 170                 175

Trp Val Glu Lys Gln Ser Ala Leu Thr Ile Asp Tyr Lys Thr Ala Leu
            180                 185                 190

Gly Ala Ile Ser Phe Asn Thr Arg Arg Thr Gly Asn Ile Gln Ile Arg
        195                 200                 205

Leu Pro Trp Tyr Ser Tyr Leu Tyr Ala Val Ser Gly Ala Leu
    210                 215                 220
```

What is claimed is:

1. A DNA molecule encoding the capsid proteins from a cynomolgus monkey hepatitis A virus said mole-

cule defined by the presence of nucleic acid encoding VP0, VP1 and VP3 where the molecule further encodes: i. an alanine at the amino acid residue number 70 of VP3 and an alanine at the amino acid residue number 102 of VP1 where said residues correspond to positions 315 and 593 of Seq. ID. No. 1 and ii. encoding the amino acid pair glutamine and threonine at the VP3-VP1 cleavage site.

2. A nucleotide sequence of claim 1 wherein the sequence is Seq. I.D. No. 1.

3. A nucleotide sequence of claim 1 having at least 95% residue identity on the nucleotide level with Seq. I.D. No. 1.

* * * * *